Tapes: 028, 029 (side A)

Transcript of Interview with Marvin Klemme

February 26, 1986, and March 19, 1986

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INTERVIEW WITH MARVIN KLEMME

Interview with Marvin Klemme conducted on February 26, 1986, and March 19, 1986, presumably in Bessie, Oklahoma. Name of interviewer is unknown.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Klemme, tell me a little bit about your early years, coming here to Oklahoma and being raised here and where did you live when you first came here?

KLEMME: I was born in the State of Missouri, December the 7th, 1900. My folks moved out to Oklahoma, here, when I was about 8 months of age, and we lived here for 3 years, and we moved back to Missouri where I lived until I was 15 years by age. And then we moved back to Oklahoma again.

INTERVIEWER: What part of Oklahoma did you live in?

KLEMME: In the Washatoe County [Washita County??], it used to be the old Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian Reservation. And, they opened they opened that up to homesteading. My grandfather was one of the first to come out here and homestead. I lived here in Oklahoma, then, until 1920 when I joined the U.S. Marines.

INTERVIEWER: When you went into the Marines, where did they send you? Did you get to stay here in the States, or did they send you overseas?

KLEMME: I was in the, got my boot training in Paris Island, South Carolina, in about 6 weeks they sent the whole bunch of us down to Dominican Republic, Santa Domingo, we called it at that time with a revolution going on. But, they, preparing the country for independence. I served down there most of the time way out in the boondocks or the interior 15 months and 4 months down on the coast, serving about 18 months altogether. When they came back to the States, they came back assigned to

Quantico, Virginia. That's near Washington, DC. I happened to be one of the honor guards at President Harding's funeral. President Harding, you know, died from a heart attack on his return from Alaska and San Francisco. I believe it was the 12th of August, if I remember right. I know we had the funeral parade up Pennsylvania Avenue at a funeral step and it was so hot, two or three of the fellows dropped out from heat. And, that's one of the things I remember but while with the Marines, I got into some foresting. They organized what they call the Pioneer Detachment to look after the forested tracks around the, Quantico, Virginia. And I joined up for that Pioneer Detachment and that's where I got interested in forestry so I made up my mind when I got out of the Marines, I was going out West and be a forest ranger.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that sounds like an interesting start. You've really seen a lot of important things that has happened in history and been there. And, to have an opportunity to be in the new portion of a detachment of Marines that were guarding our heritage of trees is really interesting. So, that's why you got interested in coming West. When did you come out West?

KLEMME: Well, as soon as I got out of. I came back to Oklahoma and visited with my folks and some of my folks in Missouri. And then I went on out to Oregon. That was in, I got out there in April 24. And I immediately, I got a job in the sawmill out there first, but I immediately wrote to three different National Forests to see if I could get a job. And they finally offered me a job in Lakeview, Oregon, at the Freemont National Forest to work on trail work. So, I worked part of the summer there til they run out of money, then went on up to Burns, Oregon, which was later our BLM District Office. At that time, the railroad had just come into Burns, Oregon, and I got there just a jump ahead of the train that came in. And I worked on logging. I took a timber contract getting out saw logs there during the rest of the summer and most of the winter and up until after New Years and then I run a trap line up in Immigrant and Sugar Loaf Mountain, up in that area, until Spring. In Spring, I got a job with the Forest Service as an administrative assistant or forest guard.

INTERVIEWER: What year was that, Mr. Klemme?

KLEMME: That would be in 1924, that would be the summer of 1924. Then I took the rangers exam that fall, and I passed it. But I couldn't get an appointment because appointments were going to all the young college graduates coming up. They were taking very few of the old timers. The old-time rangers used to, not all of them came in from a practical examination. But gradually, the college graduates was taking over, so I first went to the rangers school at the University of Idaho one winter. Then I decided to go ahead and try to get enough education to pass the technical exam which was the junior forester's examination. And I didn't have my high school. I had high school deficiencies that I had to make up. At first, I didn't intend to try to get a degree. I just wanted to get enough education to pass the examination. But, Dean Winkinworth [Winkworth??] at the University of Washington where I enrolled talked to me about going ahead and making up the deficiencies and get a degree. Which I did. So, I graduated from the University of Washington in 1930 as an honor student.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that's an interesting.

KLEMME: In the meantime, I had taken the JF examination and had passed it and fortunately got an appointment because the Depression hit us just at that time and some of the people that waited the next year couldn't get an appointment because there was no money.

INTERVIEWER: Well, it seems like you've gone to a lot of time and trouble to pursue your education and to get to work for the Forest Service. We find today that young people it's really easy to walk in and get a job with the government, but it sounds like there were troubles back in those days about getting hired too, shortages of money and things like that. So, where did you work after you got your appointment then?

KLEMME: Well, as I said the Depression was on then and it was hard to find employment for all the people that they had on hand. So, they, me being single, they shifted me around several

different places. I worked on forest surveys down on the southern states one year, down in Mississippi and Louisiana. Then I worked up in Wyoming on, running game stations, checking out game animals and they found out that I had an agriculture background, so some of the Districts where there was a range management problem, I served on four different forests, I guess, in Wyoming and three different ones in Colorado and in the Black Hills of South Dakota one year. And I was a District Ranger on the Bears District on northwestern Colorado when the Taylor Grazing Act was passed.

INTERVIEWER: What effect did that have on the livestock industry do you think when the Taylor Grazing Act was passed?

KLEMME: Well, at that time, there was about a hundred and something like a hundred and seventy million acres of unappropriated public domain, generally referred to as no man's land. Anybody could go out there and buy a band of sheep or cattle either and run them wherever he wanted to. And, there had been demand off and on for some time to put those lands under administration but they never could get the legislation enacted. It was not political. Some of the Democrats and some of the Republicans were for it and some of the Democrats and some of the Republicans were opposed to it. It was mostly division between livestock fee. Most of the homesteaders and the small cattlemen favored that. And most of the ship outfits, the sheep industry was generally opposed to it. And many of the banks and financial institutions were opposed to it because it was more profitable for them to make loans to a transient sheep outfit than it was to an established rancher because they didn't have to pay grazing fees and they could skip around and dodge the tax collector. But anyhow, and on June 28, 1934, the Taylor Grazing Act was passed.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you go after you worked in that position? Did you stay there for any length of time, or did they move you again?

KLEMME: In the meantime, the Director of Grazing was Farrington R. Carpenter, we always called him Ferry, was appointed more or less through accident, I guess. He happened to be back in Washington at the time the Act was under discussion. The Cattlemen Association had dug up some money to send him back to lobby for the, to put the cattle on the Triple A program. And while he was there, Ed Taylor, Congressman Ed Taylor, from Grand Junction, Colorado, persuaded him to testify before the committee that was hearing demands for legislation. And he made a favorable impression on everybody, including the Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes offered him the job as the new Director of Grazing. And he, Ferry Carpenter, had a ranch and a legal business in Hayden, Colorado, near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, there, right where my rancher district was located. And, so he knew me, I really got acquainted with Carpenter first through his sister who ran a small dude ranch on my district up there. But, anyhow, I, soon after he got the appointment, he left word he'd like to talk to me. And I went in to see him and he told me he'd been appointed the Director of Grazing and wanted to know if I wanted to help him organize Grazing Districts. And, so that's how I happened to. Actually, I didn't join up for a while because he had to hold hearings all over the country and all he took with him was his secretary where they held meetings and explain to the people around. But I was one. He said he didn't want to build a big bureaucracy. He wanted to handle the old administration through a system of stockmen's advisory boards composed of an equal number of sheepmen and an equal number of cattlemen. And, all he wanted to do is 20 government men who would act as coordinators to correlate the activities and direct the stockmen and that's all he wanted.

INTERVIEWER: Let's go back and talk a little bit more about Ferry Carpenter. You were telling me earlier that Mr. Carpenter had come out from back East to the West for his health and eventually settled out there. That seems to be a pattern that has happened to a lot of people during that period of time. But he did return and get his law degree in the East, is that right?

KLEMME: Yes, the Carpenters there, I believe they had a shoe factory in Chicago. Anyhow, he was raised there in Chicago. Although I believe he had the New England heritage even back

beyond that. But, anyhow, his health was not very good, and his mother sent him out to New Mexico out there. She had some friends out there that raised their own ranch and sent him out there and they spent two summers, and he got to riding horses and his health improved. But he'd go back each year and go to school. Then he went, when he finished his high school, and went to Princeton. He always like to talk about his association with Woodrow Wilson. Woodrow Wilson, at that time, was President of Princeton University. And, he had fond memories of some of the association with the President. But, anyhow, then later on, the ranch owner in New Mexico moved up to northwestern Colorado. A fellow by the name of Dawson, a big man, said he weighed nearly 300 pounds and very religious which is surprising for. He liked to tell about the time they baptized old man Dawson there in the river there near the ranch. How the trouble they had to handle him getting up and down under the water and up above it.

INTERVIEWER: I bet the water was cold too.

KLEMME: Anyway, that's where during all the time. Then after he finished Princeton, he went to Harvard Law School two years, I guess. He got his law degree and he set up his law practice there in Hayden, Colorado, and he said he didn't make much money for the first several years, but he did most of it free. But, anyhow, he got in the cattle business too and between the cattle business and the legal business, why that's the way he occupied his time. And that was the situation up until the time he got his appointment as Director of Grazing.

INTERVIEWER: Well, it appears that then they were looking for someone who had some practical experience as well as someone who was well thought of by the rest of the stockmen sending him back there to lobby for them.

KLEMME: Well, really, they said Ickes appointed him mostly to get himself off the hook. They was two agencies in the Interior Department who wanted to take over that work. They had the Geological Survey. They wanted to take it over cause they had

all those people already employed there and the Division of Investigations, the General Land Office, they wanted to take it over and they were fighting among themselves as to who was going to take it over. So, Ickes took advantage of that to appoint a completely neutral person. And that's how Carpenter got his appointment. And later on, there was some problems involved because a lot of those people were out of a job. And, the Geological Survey people were pretty well qualified. I mean, they had made the studies that, they'd run range surveys and they knew the different grasses, and which was palpable and which was not and different shrubs. But the Division of Investigations people, their work had been to examine the mineral claims and homestead entries. They had to check, when a person that homesteaded served his five years, he had to check up on the _____ like that was their job but they had almost no qualifications to take over jobs with the Grazing Service. And, that caused some trouble later on because Carpenter, the Secretary wanted to put those people to work and Carpenter said they're not qualified to work. So, that was the situation that was averted at personnel.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me a little about when you came on with the Grazing Service. Where was your first job?

KLEMME: I reported in Salt Lake City at the Office. We didn't have district offices out at that time. We had the State Office, well only some of the States had offices but the Central Office was in Salt Lake City. And I reported there, and I remember the first job I got was going through a lot of the old grazing, a lot of the grazing applications. I might say this that, well, it was become known that this land law would all be put under administration. Everybody and his brother wanted to get in on it. Anybody who had ever used the land put in an application. They could get their application at the post office, the post office handed them out. And there was an enormous number of applications. We had to go through all of those and it was a very tedious job.

INTERVIEWER: Did they give any help, or did you have to do this all by yourself?

KLEMME: No, there was people other than me. We had three secretaries in Salt Lake. We had, yeah, we had three secretaries from the, they had been transferred over to the Grazing Service. And then we got a little help from the Land Office, there too. We had to go through all those. But my first assignment was then that I worked for {**Jerry Perve**}. Perve had been with the Bureau of Land Management up until he died, I believe. And he was a good man. We worked together, started out in, we had four Districts, four Districts in Utah, western Utah, Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, and Arizona Number 1 which we called the Arizona Strip, known as the Arizona Strip. We handled those whole four districts and even then, I helped a little bit over in District 7 and District 5 a little bit. What they did first, the Board Members had been elected see but they hadn't been sworn in yet and no meetings had been held. And first the thing to do when they called a meeting was to swear the members in. And then, you started, you had build before you could pass on the applications, you had to go over each application and find out whether the man actually had any livestock at that time or whether he's just hoping someday to get livestock. Go through them that way and then find out what property he had and so forth.

INTERVIEWER: Let's talk a little bit about some of those regulation-type things like whether you had property to use as base property or the type of things that went into those applications, whether someone had actually ever had any livestock out there on these public lands or did you get a lot of problems with people making applications that really couldn't support the fact that they had livestock out there?

KLEMME: Yes, it was a lot, many cases like that. They first had to have a set of rules to find out, to judge their qualifications to go on there. The two main ones was the former use or priority as they called it like had you been running out there before and what years did you run out there. And the other one was could you support those cattle or those sheep during the time that you was not on there and, of course, it depended too on how much pasture was available. Some patterns, there wasn't very much because most of it had been homesteaded,

just a little patch of Government land here and a little patch there. And other places, there was a great area like that, see, so you could only, even after the ground was qualified, you could only give him his proportionate share of what was available, see. Well, we didn't know all that at that time. That's where the Advisory Board came in handy. Cause we got the information from the Advisory Board members. It would have taken hundreds of men and thousands of dollars to have furnished the. When we took up an application, we looked the land over and we said how many cattle did he apply for. Well, in many cases, they all applied for more than they wanted, more than they expected to get knowing that they probably wouldn't get that much anyhow, like that. So, we asked the Advisory Board member, his neighbor, we always had these Boards so that they knew the Districts, see. How many cattle does that man actually own? Well, he had never counted them, but he said well, I believe he, I don't believe he owns quite that many or I believe he owns so much. Well, the first year there was no grazing fee anyhow, so it didn't make too much difference, see. So, we weren't too strict about the exact numbers. And, the first, so the first year, that would be ’35, that'd be ’35, we just approved things as close as we could til we could get more information. Then came the grazing fees. That was a problem of grazing fee. Now, people back East said, well all those selfish cattlemen and sheepmen out there, they've been using that land for years for nothing and they hadn't been paying anything, see. So, Carpenter wanted to show that they were willing to pay something. So, we had, he called a big meeting in January, January of ’36, no January of ’35, to go over rules and regulations and the grazing fees questions, of course, came up. Well, some of the people said they didn't think they ought to pay anything until they knew for sure what they was going to get and they didn't issue permits at first, they issued grazing licenses until they could get around the issue to issue a permit. And, but anyhow, so when this fellow, the next year, when he got a statement saying he owed so much money, then he begin to say well, maybe I better tell them the truth and tell them how many I got cause I'm paying for some cattle here I don't have.

INTERVIEWER: Let's go back a little bit and talk about the Advisory Board members. How were they selected? Were they

selected by the stockmen themselves and nominated to be on the Advisory Board?

KLEMME: Yes, that's the way. They first decided to have an equal number of sheepmen and cattlemen. Later on, that was changed, of course, as the sheepmen go out of the country. But to start with, they started with an equal number of sheepmen and cattlemen. And in a few cases, we had a horse, and that was Oregon, we had a horse representative and we had some of this, what they call a free use representatives that was for the little fellows that didn't have more than ten head of cattle or something like that. And they took that from the old Forest Service. The old Forest Service used to always have a free use man like that. And in, on the Arizona Strip, we had a goat representative.

INTERVIEWER: A goat representative?

KLEMME: I believe he was the only one in the United States. I don't know, New Mexico had some. See Texas was a big angora goat. But Texas wasn't in on the Taylor Grazing Act. They had their own land deal.

INTERVIEWER: So, these people that came on the Advisory Board, they were pretty much representative of the average stockmen that were out there. The cattlemen and the sheepmen, they were their representatives to try to help you and see that they got a fair deal?

KLEMME: Yes. That, most of the, most of the advisors were respected people in the community. I mean, they put somebody that could represent them. Actually, that cause them some trouble later on because it was back there, they said the bankers and quite of few of these possibly did have some interest. I know out of Oregon, out of our seven Advisory Board, the Chairmen of seven of our Boards, four of them did have some interest in banks. One of them, two of them, I guess, was president of a small state bank and two others was with an

intermediate credit bank or some finance institution like that. But, anyhow, they were elected by the people and usually they, it was just natural that they'll select somebody that has been a successful person. And, but, to get back to the numbers, as I say, we had an equal number of sheepmen and an equal number of cattlemen to start in with. Some places, some places there was real hostility between the sheep and cattlemen. I know parts of Colorado, it was bad. And we had one place in Oregon like that too, where there was kind of gunning for each other.

INTERVIEWER: A lot of hard feelings. How did you feel then being sort of put in the middle between these two? Did you ever have any problems at your Advisory Board meetings between the cattlemen and the sheepmen?

KLEMME: No, I can't say we ever really had any trouble at all. Once they got together and to working together like that, it worked out a lot better than people thought would be.

INTERVIEWER: Now, you said a few minutes ago when we were talking about land patterns, that sometimes the government land was just a small patch and a lot of it had been homesteaded and in other areas there were large pasture areas. In the District that you worked in, if there was a large pasture area like that and you had a lot of applicants for use on that particular area, how did you go about dividing it up amongst the people that wanted to use it?

KLEMME: Well, we figured that's where priority came in pretty strong, see. People had been customarily using over a period of years, they was one of the preferred providing they had the hay and feed to take care of them during the time when.

INTERVIEWER: During all seasons.

KLEMME: All seasons, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Did you count heavily on their base property and availability of water? Was that an important factor in determining, you know, how many animals they could have out there?

KLEMME: Yes, that was very important in the southern states down there. In Arizona, on the Arizona Strip, nearly everything's based on, based on water, because and on down in New Mexico and Arizona like that, I know down there sometimes. Here's another thing. Back in Washington they wondered why they couldn't have one set of rules that would apply to everybody. To apply to New Mexico and Arizona and Idaho and everything like that. Well, the first big meeting we had in Salt Lake City, that came became evident that you couldn't do that. Each section in the country with different climatic conditions would have to have a different set of rules. And that's why it took so long to get those rules finally approved by the Solicitors and the attorneys back in the Interior Department back there.

INTERVIEWER: It's difficult to try to find a set of rules that will fit everybody's needs and everyone's problems out there. When you had your Advisory Boards sworn in and they were ready to start working and you sat down with this huge pile of applications and tried to find out how many animals a person had had out there on the land and whether they had priority use and base property, did you ever find that there were problems with people that were on the Advisory Board favoring one applicant over another?

KLEMME: Not very much cause they couldn't have gotten by with it. The other members on the Board generally also knew something about that like that, see. And that was, that was one more place where the Advisory Boards was a great help to us because if they would have had to depend on a bunch of government men to come in and do like that, they couldn't have done it at all. And furthermore, when those applications were approved, we made a list of them, and they were. The first to start in, they were tacked on the post office or some government building where everybody could come by and take a look and see what had happened. And that was one reason too that there

wasn't any fraud. I mean the government men could have been bribed pretty easy. And we had a number of cases like that where, but the government men didn't dare do it because that would be posted on the post office, and everybody would see what had happened and he'd be chased out of the state.

INTERVIEWER: That sounds like it was a pretty good system. When it came time for instituting the grazing fees and starting to issue the long-term permits instead of just the one-year type license, did you get a lot of support from the Advisory Board? Were they really a big help in convincing the cattlemen and the sheepmen out there they needed to pay for the use of that land?

KLEMME: Yes, it, of course, nobody likes to pay anymore than he has to for a grazing fee. You can see now what's happened. We started out with a five cents a head per AUM, animal unit month, five cents, I don't know what it is now but it's one dollar and 80 cents of something.

INTERVIEWER: A dollar thirty-five.

KLEMME: A dollar thirty-five, well they dropped down a little, I believe. Yeah, so you can see how it's gone up. Well, of course, it gradually went up five cents, twenty cents, and so forth on up to where it is at the present time. But one thing was too they, that money came back to the District mostly. Most of that grazing fee money doesn't go into the National Treasury. It's divided, and I know if Oregon, there, half of it went to the states, into the state's coffers, and they turned it back to the Grazing District. So, we in Oregon, we got 75 percent of the money came back and it was used to put down water developments and put in trails and build fences and one thing and the like. So, really, they weren't costing too much. They were getting most of it back.

INTERVIEWER: That must have been a real incentive to the people when they knew they were going to have to pay a fee was a fact that that money was going to come back and be used for range

improvements there in their own area rather than going off to some other part of the country where they didn't see the advantages of it. I would think that that might have made your job a little bit easier in getting their cooperation. How good were the people about paying those first fees? Did they come in the office upset because they thought they were being charged too much?

KLEMME: Yeah, see, we had worked out. We didn't want to handle any money in the office. Our staff, I'll mention this a little later about the small personnel we had to handle all of this, but we raised, if they paid that to us, to the Land Office, the Land Office acted as collector of all grazing fees and dispersing. They sent it to whoever, wherever it was supposed to go. And, I know, people sometimes come into our office and want to give us a check like that and some of the times even brought money in. Well, I instructed our secretaries and the people never to accept any money and to tell them to take the check and go down to the post office and buy a postal money order and take it up to The Dalles, Oregon, was the Land Office at that time, it was handling it, to send that money up there. And, so they got used to that. But, they had to, at that time, they had, was supposed to pay half of it in advance and pay the other half the first of July. They was supposed to send the first part when they sent their application in, the new application in. And, as I say, this is for a grazing license, we weren't authorized to issue permits yet.

INTERVIEWER: How long did it take for them to get to the point where they started offering permits?

KLEMME: We were still issuing licenses when I was, they didn't get down to permits, I believe, til after the war.

INTERVIEWER: So, it took quite a long time to get over into the system we're using now?

KLEMME: That was one thing that it discouraged, the legality, it took so long to get established. I mean that, we hoped we would get going and get this thing worked out. I know they asked me how long do you think it will take to get that worked out. I say I think we'll have permits, registration permits, in three years. And the Chief of the Grazing, the Forest Service, Walt {**Dunton**} came into my office one time. He said how long do you think that you going to take? And I said I think we'll be ready to issue permits in three years. And he said well if you do it that fast, you'll do it faster than the Forest Service ever did. Well, we would have, I believe, but we waited on the law. We had to get a lot of legal technicalities or something and the law moves very slowly.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, it does.

KLEMME: Even trespass cases.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me a little bit about trespass. How was trespass back in those days when you were first starting out. Was that a real problem up there in Oregon?

KLEMME: Well, it was. Some of the transient sheep outfits, and they had unfortunately some attorneys that saw a chance to make money, gave those, a lot of them are old country Basques and Greeks and they were easily persuaded that all you got to do is fight this law and it'll be declared unconstitutional and it won't cost you anything. And so that held it up. We had go through the courts to prove, first to prove that the law was legal but it took Judge McNary, he was a brother of the Senator, finally gave us a decision and I know that they almost wrote, he wrote the decision that the Forest Service got way back in 1905, ’6, and ’7, along in there like that, almost copied them. But, it took them all that time to make up their minds or to do it and finally said. Then after the law, the Taylor Grazing Act itself was declared legal, you still had to go. Some of the attorneys said well, we thought or we believed that the law was, but we believed some of those regulations that you're putting in, the range code is what we called it. The Range Code. A lot

of that's not legal. So, you had to go through that all over again. So, that's what took so much time.

INTERVIEWER: Took a lot of time to keeping going

KLEMME: In the meantime, though, in the meantime, though, we went ahead right on the, kind of a bluff I guess you might say, but we went ahead right ahead doing business and we did have some trespass cases that took a long while. But the banks helped us a whole lot in a way because they began to close in on those people that didn't have property and so a lot of the, half of the sheep population, I believe, in the west left, went out of business during the Carpenter's administration. That wasn't entirely due to the Taylor Grazing Act. It was about the time the war was coming on. The sheep industry wasn't profitable. It's hard to get hurt. They could go to the shipyards, and they could get two or three times as much money working in the shipyards as they could out there herding sheep. So, a lot of that was not due to the Taylor Grazing Act. But that was one of the things we were criticized for was sending so much livestock off the tax roles. They get, they'd say that here back in 1937 or ’27 or back in there we had so many sheep in this country like that or so many on the tax role, now you cut that way down there so that was a talking point that you had to think about.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about say an individual trespass case. I'm familiar with the procedures that we go through now in the Bureau of Land Management if we have, say, a cattle trespass. What did you do back then if you had a trespass? Did you have to come out of your office and go out there and check on it or did you have someone else that looked into them?

KLEMME: The most outstanding trespass case we had that was watched by not only in Oregon but all over the western United States was the Old Diego Trespass case. Old Diego had on the advice of the lawyers, I guess, taken a band of sheep out there and didn't even apply for an application. He just took them out there. And they said this law's not legal. And when we had to win this case, we had to put a range rider to show where he was

every night where he camped his sheep every night. We had to have a record like that. And then finally after a certain number of days, well I know we had the United States Marshall, a deputy of the United States Marshall, come clear out there. And we took the Chairman of the Advisory Board and myself and there was a man from the Division of Investigation, we all went out there. And he was, had his sheep all out there. And he said if they take those sheep over, I'm going turn them over to KLEMME and let him herd them. Well, I looked for a while like I was in the sheep business. But, the Chairman of the Board, Jim Jones, he knew the herder. Old Diego went over and handed him a check right in the presence of the United States Marshall and _____. And Jones knew the herder and he talked to him, and he said you stay with these sheep here. He said Jones is getting tired of being in jail. See, they took him down in Vale and put him in jail down there. And he would get tired of that, and he'd be back in a day or two. Well, that's what happened. They put him in, I guess, with a drunk or something or the other like that and he had all kinds of trouble and he wanted to see his lawyer the next morning. So, he was back with his sheep again. But, anyhow, that's what you had to go through. But you still had, he was out on bond though even then. It still had run out. And finally, he sold his sheep. But the bank took it away from him, I guess. But that's what you had to go through.

INTERVIEWER: That's what you had to do when you had a trespass. Well, fortunately, they didn't make you impound those sheep and take them home with you anyway. You'd have been in the sheep business for sure.

KLEMME: I don't know what to this day just exactly who would be responsible for them sheep. Because, well there, well the United States Marshall would be responsible for them because if he went off and left those sheep, the coyotes would be there, they'd scatter everywhere like that and they'd been lost, you know. Just who would have been responsible, even the Director Carpenter. I said he didn't seem to know who would be responsible. They hadn't thought about that, about running off and leaving the sheep and say well, here, you got them.

INTERVIEWER: Sometimes, we don't always look into the, all the possibilities when we make regulations about how we're supposed to go out and do our job and that's what happens. They probably hadn't considered what might happen to those sheep if they got strayed out there and you'd have problems.

KLEMME: I never got in jail myself, I guess. I wrote a letter to the, a Judge Alger Fee, he was a federal judge, one of the two federal judges at that time, to try to hurry up these hearings. The people was coming into my office every day and say here we're paying a grazing fee and we're not getting any help, any protection at all and running the sheep all around here like that and they was holding up hearings like that. We didn't know the law was legal like that. And Judge Fee wrote back and said he was surprised that a man in a administrative position like that would try to contact a federal judge. And he was going to cite me with contempt of court. Ferry Carpenter in fortunately came in just, came in a few days. I showed him that letter. So, he drafted an apology and signed and so I never heard anything more about it. But to this day, I wondered just who bring pressure on it. I hadn't tried to bring pressure on him. I just wanted a hearing. If the law was unconstitutional, I wanted to know if it wasn't. If it was, we wanted to know. But they, the judges, they feel they're not obliged to, they can go ahead and do whatever they want to, you know.

INTERVIEWER: That must have been kind of difficult for those of you who started out at the very beginning with a law on the books that people were questioning whether it was constitutional or not and the problems of so many people applying to use the same piece of land and having a newly formed board like an Advisory Board. In your office, there in Oregon, how many people did you have working with you when you first started?

KLEMME: Let me tell you, we started in. Oregon, to start with, was, two of the districts was handled out of the Reno office and two of them were handled out of the Boise Office and the others hadn't even been set up yet. We had seven districts there. And Oregon, the people up there wanted a District, a region of their own. So, the said Oregon and Washington would be set up as a

separate Region and I was set up, well I was set up as Acting Regional Grazer. We called them Regional Grazers, did the regional administration. Several Regional Grazers at that time. So, I was set up as Acting and became permanent in, 6 months later like that.

INTERVIEWER: What year was that, Mr. Klemme?

KLEMME: That was in 1966, beginning of ’66. Yeah, ’66. And when I went up there, I left, Carpenter wanted to wait. We had the big meeting with all the Advisory Boards in there on January in Salt Lake wanted me to wait until after that meeting. So, we all talked everything over. And then I left the first week in February, I left Oregon. I left in a Plymouth car, had two suitcases and a typewriter and a box of stationery and that's how Oregon was first set up. We had, it attempted to arrange for an office up there, but it hadn't been fixed, so for two or three weeks I, my hotel was the office.

INTERVIEWER: What town were you stationed in there?

KLEMME: Burns.

INTERVIEWER: In Burns.

KLEMME: As I previously mentioned they set up the office in Burns for geographic reasons because it was about equal distance between Lakeview and Klamath over on one end and Burns and Vale and Ontario on the other and Jordan Valley. So it was, that's where we set up the office like that. Well, I was authorized to hire a secretary and one field man. And the field man I didn't have any trouble with. I found a guy, a fellow by the name of, he passed the range examination, named Paul Crowder. And I told him to report to duty, but I wanted a male secretary because most of the work

(**TAPE RAN OUT**)

It's the wintertime, with snow bits, it was an unusually bad winter, hard winter, and the roads were really bad and I didn't want to get caught out in the snow with a lady secretary. Well, Washington said they didn't have any available, any male secretaries available but finally sent me a list of some of them that had taken the exam. And Morris Zimmerman, we called him Zimm, had taken the exam but he didn't know whether he had passed the examination or not. Well, anyhow, I interviewed Zimm over at Baker and he seemed okay to me, and I told him to report for duty. Well, fortunately, he had passed the exam, but we didn't find out about it for a month or so later. But in the meantime, he went with me everywhere and all the.

INTERVIEWER: Gather and come up with what your priorities were going to be to get the job done.

KLEMME: Well, the first thing was to take sort of an inventory and find out what we had. We didn't know just how many people would be entitled to use that land, so we had to go through all the applications and whittle out those that were not qualified. And then after we found out those that were qualified, it was, the question was to find out how much they would be entitled to. And we couldn't, we couldn't tell them that either until we knew how much we had to offer. And, but we started off by going through the applications and whittling out those that were not entitled to it at all. And then the next step was to find out what, roughly what we had to offer and make our deductions accordingly.

INTERVIEWER: One of the things I think that would be interesting to the people working for the Bureau today is we have a lot of meetings that we have in order to determine priorities and set work schedules and things like that and that's very necessary when you have as many employees as we have. What was it like when it were just you and the secretary and one range man out there?

KLEMME: Well, we had to do everything. I remember the first year in getting out the grazing applications, we worked til,

sometimes we worked til midnight to get those all out. And I remember on two or three occasions that the fellows brought their wives in. At that time, I think, there was only. To start with the first year, to get the first ones out, I only had the field man and the secretary. Then, they, a staff, let's see on, in May the first I got another, was authorized to put on two men. One permanent and one temporary. They were both married men and had their wives there. And then on the first of July of ’35, Paul Stafford was added to our staff. He had been with the Reindeer Service up in Alaska and he'd been up there five years, I believe. And so, he came back to the States and he was added to our staff, so we begin to get a. By the end of the year, then we had a staff of, and we authorized to put on a female secretary, so I had a secretary and a typist-secretary, and I had three field men. And we had to cover the entire state getting out the grazing applications and whatever there was to do.

INTERVIEWER: When you went out into the field, did you often go out with your field men to check on the different areas? Did you get to spend a lot of time out or did they keep you cooped up in the office at lot?

KLEMME: As much as time as I could spare, I liked to go out with the, to look over the problems involved and usually I'd stay all night with one the ranchers, see. And he'd furnish me with a horse, and we'd ride over his, but as we said our personnel was so limited, I didn't have an opportunity to spend as much as time in the field that I would like to. And later on, the next two or three years, of course, we began to get a little more personnel and I could spend a little more time out.

INTERVIEWER: I think that the problem that our managers oftentimes feel they suffer from today is that they don't always get to go out to the field as often as they'd like to along with, you know, the people on their staffs so even when you were working back in those days with so much area to cover, how many thousand acres did that work out to per person? That was quite a large area to cover for you, wasn't it, the whole state?

KLEMME: Well, Oregon had ten, nearly eleven million acres, of public domain land. At that time, too, we had, there was stock driveways that had not been turned over to us and eventually that was all that was turned over to us. Also, there was quite a few uncancelled homesteads at that time, proved up homesteads, see? And there was a problem too for trespasses cause people would, that hadn't proved up on them that they had leased those lands to transient sheep outfits, see, and so that took, it took a lot of time to eliminate all of those problems.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of equipment did your field men get and what kind of equipment did you get? Did they give you a uniform? And, if so, tell us a little about what it looked like.

KLEMME: No, they didn't give us any uniforms. We kind of devised one for ourselves. I've always been in favor of the administrative staff, people that meet the public, to be dressed neatly and people on range surveys and so forth like that. It's not necessary that they were uniforms. But there was nothing started along that line at that time. And the government furnished us our automobiles. I had a Plymouth car, two-seated car.

INTERVIEWER: And they didn't provide you with any kind of official uniform. Was the Forest Service people wearing uniforms in those days?

KLEMME: Oh, yes. When I was in the Forest Service, I wore a uniform.

INTERVIEWER: You say you devised one of your own. Tell us what it looked like.

KLEMME: Well, it was a kind of willow green color, and it was just, I guess you'd call the Norfolk-type blouse, but it was a dress uniform. A nice, neat uniform. Some of the old, you see some of our old photographs, you'll see what the fellows looked

like. I know I used to be kindly razzed by some of the members of the staff about taking all those photographs, even the Director Carpenter used to tease me sometimes. I had a big postcard size Eastman camera. I said, well someday these photographs are going have historical value and it's turned out that way because a lot of the photographs I've taken now are used back in Washington. Whenever we had a board meeting, even if it was Oregon, some of them like Utah and Nevada, not Nevada but Arizona and Colorado. I took photographs whenever we'd have a board meeting, I'd say I'd like to get a photograph of the Board.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that's great. We're all really grateful that you did do that because it really makes it nice for those of us that have come along later with the Bureau to be able to look back and see the people that was working in the Division of Grazing and then the Grazing Service as part of the forerunner for our agency. Let's shift just a little bit. Tell me about what would a typical day be for you?

KLEMME: Well, I usually got up and then about an hour before I'd get up laying there thinking about what I was going to do during the rest of day, but usually I worked til 10:30 in the evening, nearly every evening, even as time went on, I guess I averaged twelve hours a day at the very minimum. And that was one of the, some of the fellows' wives were critical of me because keeping their husbands away from the home so much of the time. But, along towards the last, we begin to get more personnel, we modified that a little bit so that they didn't have to work too long.

INTERVIEWER: Once you got set up in your office there, what were your office hours, what kind of hours did you keep them open officially that it?

KLEMME: Well, let me see. It was 8 o'clock in the morning and five in the evening, afternoon.

INTERVIEWER: Well, then that was a pretty

KLEMME: That was with an hour off at noon.

INTERVIEWER: An hour off at lunch. Well, that's good. One of the things that we have a question here about furnishing horses as the law provided. Can you tell me a little bit about that, did you provide horses?

KLEMME: No, when I was with the Forest Service, I had three horses. I had to get my own horses and I had to buy them, and the government paid me for wintering them, small grazing fee or fee stipend, but the Grazing Service had never got that far along when I was with them. When we did any riding, we usually got it from one of the ranchers wherever we were going. They would usually let the _____ see nothing because they were anxious to get there, to find out where their allotment was and to make a good impression on the government man but I know'd the time was coming when some of the district grazers would need horses.

INTERVIEWER: Well, it sounds like in the very early days, even starting off that there was good personal relationships between those of you that started out working for the Grazing Services and those early ranchers. There seems like there was a lot of cooperation there on their part.

KLEMME: Yes, I can't say that I ever had any real trouble with any of the stockmen. They were all glad to get going and get their and wanted to find out how many cattle they could run or how many sheep they could run and they were cooperative.

INTERVIEWER: With all that traveling around, did you ever have any problems with the weather up there in Oregon?

KLEMME: Yes, we had. The first year I was up there was the worst. They had snow, the roads were blocked and that was difficult to get around from one meeting to the other. And I remember one time in going from, we had a meeting in Prineville and the roads were all blocked. Then we had to go clean down to Valley Falls and then north up towards Bend and around like that and we got blocked the snow. We got there long about in the middle of the morning when the board members were all waiting for us, wondering what had happened to us. And it was a real problem in the early days. The roads were very bad even then. And but traveling, doing a lot of night traveling, we managed to meet our schedule.

INTERVIEWER: Well, it sounds like you had a pretty hard schedule to keep sometimes. In looking back over those years and looking at where the Bureau of Land Management is today, did you have any goals that you were looking towards when you came to work for the Grazing Service, long-term goals that you wanted to see enacted?

KLEMME: Yes, I did. I wanted to see those lands, all these public domains, put to proper use. I guess that is what I can say mostly. I want to mention a little bit about other uses besides grazing, though. Now, they have many different uses where we never thought about then. Recreation, our main competitor at that time was wildlife. The Biological Survey as it was called at that time, they had a fanatic in charge of it by the name of Dean Darling. He'd been a cartoonist with the, some newspaper in Iowa, there. And he'd been a friend of Henry Wallace, at that time Secretary of the Interior before he became Vice President. And Darling, he wanted to turn all the land over into game preserves and that was something that I had to contend with the first thing I got to Oregon other than getting out the grazing licenses was wildlife and trying to work out some kind of a program. They wanted at that time, had plans to take over a lot of northern Nevada and most of southern and southeastern Oregon. But we got that whittled down and we finally, hard bound game reserve in Oregon was set up and the Sheldon Game Preserve across in Nevada was set up. And, that took a lot of time. But now then the other, the Advisory Board sued. Oregon was the first one to put a game representative on the Advisory Boards. We had three of them. One of them, George

Akin, out of Ontario, Dr. Hebert up at Burns and then we had a man over at Klamath Falls, I forget his name now, and later, I think, one from Prineville. And they was very active. George Akin, he was an editor of the {**Orgiss Enterprise**}, I believe, it was, newspaper, a weekly newspaper, and he was a great help to us in letting the people know what the boards were doing and the problems that they ran into like that. Before he was on the Board, he was a little bit critical at times but when he saw what the problems were, he was a great help to us. Then, of course, later on there came the wildlife, the {**Mount Here**} [Malheur??] Game Preserve and we had quite a lot of relations with them because they, the interrelation between some of the, they opened up some of that to ranch cattle and sheep and but now then there's other uses. I recommended that the present boards at that time would gradually work themselves out of a job because once the licenses or permits were issued, there wouldn't be the need for the information that they gave us at first, we wouldn't need it. Range examiners and property checkers would furnish that. But, it would come, they would need representatives of watershed management. For instance, Los Angeles area and in Utah, they, watershed was more valuable for irrigation, protecting water system for irrigation, than it probably was for grazing. So those people wanted to be heard. And the recreation people, we didn't think much about recreation at that time. Those desert lands would be a much, have much use for recreation but as it turned out, they have and will be more and more. So, the Advisory Board, we had composed of entirely of livestock then. Later, the wildlife that was in it probably should be composed of a half a dozen or so different interests and the people will be better satisfied then. I think we wouldn't have had this Sagebrush Rebellion if the advisory boards had been used as they, to the fullest extent.

INTERVIEWER: More like a Multiple-Use Board rather than just the old Advisory Board?

KLEMME: Yes. That is really what it should be.

INTERVIEWER: Talking about conflicts in management of the lands out there with wildlife, that's something that we still have

problems with today wanting to be able to accommodate the cattle or sheep raiser and at the same time provide enough grasses and forage for the wild animals that are out there. How did your range surveys assist you getting to know what you actually had out there and what the condition of that range was. That must have been something that was necessary before you could decide how many cattle or sheep could go out there as well as the concerns of the wildlife people.

KLEMME: We were just in process of making a road survey in all the districts and we completed one district, the little district number one down in the Klamath Falls. We completed that before I left the area. The others were still in process of being conducted. The wild horse problem was something that we ran into right away, though. Of course, they had been running horses out there wild and a lot of them unbranded and usually an unbranded horse was a maverick. It belonged to anybody that could get it. And, it was, well, it was a cleaning, butchering plant down in Elko, Nevada, down there, was processing when they started raising foxes, they began to be a demand for beef to feed those, the foxes and so forth like that and, so, they'd catch those horses and drive them down to Elko and they'd butcher them down there and process them down there. But, they was, I remember though that some of that got into the newspapers back East and we got a number of letters, some of them were sent direct to us there in Oregon, some of them was sent to Washington, and they were forwarded back to us about the cruel practice of butchering those beautiful range horses out there, mostly from women's clubs and well, they didn't understand the excess numbers of horses had to be removed just the same as the excess numbers of the cattle. What I did suggest, though, at that time was to, a lot of those horses and some in Harney County were broom veils. They were just scrub horses, they deteriorated, and I recommended that they turn some, get some good stallions of good breed and turn them in and if you're going to horses, try to raise some good ones. And I believe they done that to some extent. I know in Arizona, I know we had the burro problem, the wild burros, they just about take over the country. I remember staying all night with a homesteader out there. One night in there, along about sundown, you could hear a bray over on that side of the valley and he'd be answered by another one over on the next side of the valley and then

there was some others would join in and you'd have an orchestra. I guess that lead to the calling them the Arizona nightingales.

INTERVIEWER: That seems an appropriate name. The Bureau has quite an active Program, as you know, with the Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions going on and it's still a very sensitive program. It appears the sensitivity hasn't changed a great deal since those days. And the problem is still there, one of managing the range out there for all the animals and keeping them, you know, to a reasonable level and we still are getting horses from out the Oregon sometimes for adoptions. But, how was your relationship with the press? Did you get pretty good coverage from the media or were they opposed or?

KLEMME: Mostly we did. There was a small newspaper called the Free Press. Of course, they was against everything we did. But for the most part, the responsible paper was helpful to us.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that's something I know we're always trying to work with the media today and get across what the Bureau's activities are and have a good relationship with them. What about your relationship with the Congressional staff within the state of Oregon? Did you get Congressional inquiries like we get today that someone has written to their Congressman and complained about perhaps how you were allotting the range out there?

KLEMME: We had very good relations with our Congressman, especially old Walter Pierce, Congressman Walter Pierce. He helped us a lot and one thing we did, you know, there was a lot of tax delinquent lands, all of eastern Oregon, some counties or half of it was tax delinquent. And that land was laying idle there and the people ran over it just the same as public domain like that. The counties weren't getting a penny out of it. So, I organized, Doug {**Bizny**} [Bisney??] and me organized Grazing Associations. We made a deal with the counties to take that land over through Grazing Associations, be under the same supervision as the Advisory Boards that the other land was like

that. And they would get the same amount of fee. They would get their proportionate share if they owned in that District, if they owned 15 percent of the land, they'd get 15 percent of the grazing fees like that. That was one of the, probably one of the, things that I was most proud of that I accomplished was organizing Grazing Associations. And then finally in the last year, we took in the state lands, state school lands. State school lands, you know, originally owned two sections of each Township. Well, usually they, in the early days, they's sold the best of that land and especially if it had a water hole on it. But the land, the rest of the land lay there, and it was being used just like public domain. So, we made the same deal with them. There was some criticism. They said we was buying it too cheap. Well, they was getting exactly and they was getting protection because they wasn't anything and then we brought in the, we started the exchange. And we blocked, before I left, we made several blocks. And they're still carrying it on. When I was up in the Oregon area this last year, they had just finalized quite a large exchange to get those, instead of having a state, having an isolate patch here and there and everywhere like. To try to get those in blocks of probably six to nine sections in a square if it was at all possible in the spares so that they could dispose of it. They could either join in with the Grazing Service or they could set up their own administration or they could sell or dispose of it as they saw fit.

INTERVIEWER: Well, land exchanges are usually long and complicated and difficult to work out. How did that work out for you? It sounds like you had a pretty full workload as it was just for your people.

KLEMME: Here's what we did. We had a notice in the papers that there would be meeting held to dispose of them, to work something out in land exchanges like that. And, then we had maps there. We had the people to figure out a block of land like that and we said this will be tentative. We try it for one year and if it's satisfactory, well, we'll file an application for a permit of exchange. We knew a lot of them probably, they would have to be some adjustments. And so the next year after they made the adjustments, why then they started again and went over it again and made the adjustments and filed it for

permanent. It took a long time, as you said, to for that to go through but quite a few of the blocks that I worked out have been finalized. Quite a number of them especially in Mount Huron and Harney County and Baker County. Those three counties, we blocked all of it.

INTERVIEWER: After you'd gotten that preliminary arrangement worked out, did you or your staff have to handle the rest of the paperwork end of it or did the Land Office take care of that for you?

KLEMME: No. That was mostly, the Land Office was having to do that and that is still pending too. That's what I said. We'd send that back there and it took them a lifetime to get going on a thing like that. But, anyhow, we worked it out tentative and we still, we administered just the same as if we did own it or if they owned it.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that sounds like something that worked out really well to the benefit of the people there and I'm sure that must have helped to give you and your staff the support of people even if they weren't stockmen themselves and involved in it directly, they would support that kind of action, you know, to bring benefit to their county or school lands or whatever. Tell me a little bit about the, some of the personnel that came to work for you during that period when you were in Oregon. What kinds of people and their backgrounds did you have working?

KLEMME: Well, some of the permanent people I brought in. I brought in Bob Bennett. Bob Bennett had been a District Forest Ranger for years and then he left the Forest Service and went into ranching and real estate business like that. So, times got tough and he wanted to get back in the government services, so I brought Bob back in and he stayed until he retired. I also brought Nick Monte in from Montana. The State of Montana had their own Grazing Association. They had a block there called the {**Misma**} Pumpkin area and Monte had been in charge of that. But when Taylor Grazing Act came along, really it took over that work and Nick was about out of a job. The Director up

there, Bob Morgan, had got in some kind of trouble up there and so Ferry Carpenter, the Director, sent Warner Griswold from Nevada up there to take his place and he asked me to go along and kind of help him get established. So, we called on Monte and we was interested in how that Misma Pumpkin, how the State functioned as a state management. And, Monte asked me he said, how about me getting a job with the Grazing Service. He said this is going to terminate now in another month. And he said I've taken that old grazers examination and I passed but he said we were going to have to do it in a hurry because I'm almost 53 years of age and that's the limit. It was up in 253. So, I got busy and got him in. And he took my place in Oregon. Nick Monte took my place in Oregon when I went overseas.

INTERVIEWER: Well, let's see, what else do we want to cover? Let's talk a little bit about the change for you personally. Now, you were born in Missouri, raised part of the time in Oklahoma, part of the time in Missouri. There's a lot of difference between the country down here than there is up in Oregon. Was that a big personal change for you being far away from your family and going up there to a place where the weather was so different?

KLEMME: No. I have been over most of the, nearly all of the western states, so I was almost at home in one as well as any other. I wanted to say though that before I left the Service, Director Carpenter and I had talked about my making a tour around the world to make a study of land uses. And we had it all worked out before Carpenter left. I had been given a special passport, not a tourist passport, not a diplomatic passport, but a special passport. And it had been, they sent, I gave them the itinerary of the countries that I wanted to visit. And word was sent to our Consul General in every one of those countries giving my itinerary when I would be there and so forth like that. I left on December 12th, ’38. Left San Francisco by boat. I went to Hawaii. I spent about 2 weeks there. Then I went to New Zealand, spent another 2 or 3 weeks there. Went to Australia. I spent 6 weeks there. Went up to the Philippines and to Hong Kong and then Japan. The Japanese had bought American sheep and took out in Mongolia. The Japanese had set up a puppet country out there called Manchukuo and they asked me when I got to Japan if I'd like to go out to Manchukuo to see

the country. Well, I wanted to go and, in fact, I'd talked to our people about that and they said oh, there's no chance to get out in a place like that. We don't have diplomatic relations out there. They'd never recognized the country. So, I said if you'll send a guide along with me to help me get through all the _____ and so forth like that, I'll be glad to go, so I did. And I was over in northern China down to Peking and through Siberia. We went through Siberia and there was fighting at that time where we crossed the frontier. On one side there was Mongolian People's Republic they called it, which is really the Russians, and on the Manchurian side it was really the Japanese. So, at that time, it took me about 3 weeks to go through, I think you can make it in five or six days now. No, it took us 13 days. We had the train would stop several places. A track would be out or something or the other like that. Some cases, forest fires would run across and they'd burned some of the ties up, different things like that. Most of the passengers were military. I remember Tim {**Washanka**} was on the train going back and he always sat at a table by himself. He was a large, tall, bald-headed man that never associated with his officers. But anyhow, I went on through stopping off at, in Russia when I got there. And, several countries in Europe. I got in Berlin when the big forestry congress was being held there. They were all Nazified at that time. Everybody was Heil Hitler and so forth and like that. But anyhow, one reason I wanted to visit Germany was to visit the German Labor Camps to compare them with our CC camps. And I visited three of them. I wrote a report on that, and General Marshall had sent to all the military folks copies of that. It's probably in an exhibit now somewhere. Well, anyhow, war broke out when I got down in Turkey. Well, in the meantime, I went back to Russia again. They had, they was going have the 10th Anniversary of their independence. They were having a big fair and people would, delegates were coming in from all the different parts of the Soviet Socialist Republics, so I stayed at the Hotel Metropol and every morning they met me with a great big black Ziz car and took me out where the exhibit was, in the state, some merchant local that they'd taken over and so I took that all in. And so, they arranged me, instead of going back through Poland and Germany like I had before, I went out in Romania way down from {**Bessarabia**}. I visited some of their land down there too and some of the land, I remember telling them that out east of the Caucasus, they plowed up a land out there. It's a lot like eastern Colorado and I told them they'd have a dust bowl on

their hands someday. I understand that's just what's happened too. Anyhow, I went into Romania from {**Bessarabia**} into {**Besaredia**}. Russia has that now, at that time it belonged to Romania. They took it away from them. It was stuck right in the middle of the Nepa River and the train from Romania back up in, took the car, and I was the only one that crossed the line. And went on up to Hungary and down through Yugoslavia and Bulgaria into Turkey and war broke out. War broke out when I got in Turkey. I was _____. Well, there was a lot of.

INTERVIEWER: How many months were you gone or years were you gone doing all this?

KLEMME: Oh no that tour there was. Not quite a year.

INTERVIEWER: Not quite a year.

KLEMME: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: While you were out in these other countries, were you looking around at their ranching or grazing practices as comparison to what we were doing in the United States?

KLEMME: Yes, that's what principal. When I was in Australia like that, they knew what was coming, see. And they were already, I was taken all around. Unfortunately, it was the worst time of the. They'd had about a three or four year drought and the livestock was in poor condition and like that and they were trying to. A lot of them were dying and they was picking the wool out of you know, when an animal dies, you can pick the wool. This was in a warehouse. It was an awful smelling place to go into. But anyhow, I was part of the time with the foresters and part of the time with the livestock people like that. And the same thing in New Zealand. They took me and showed me a lot of the small slaughtering plants and refrigeration revolutionized their accounting when they could take the lambs and send them over to Belgium and parts of Europe

like that. Before there was no market for the meat, see, before the refrigeration came along. Well, anyhow, I was well taken care of. The same thing in Japan. The Japanese treated me well.

INTERVIEWER: How was their, how was the Japanese sheep operation you said they had. Was it in Japan?

KLEMME: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: How did that do with them taking the sheep?

KLEMME: Well, we don't know because war came on later on you see. But they had, the fat-tail breeds of sheep out there, you know. They, on those desert countries, they had mostly stocking camel, you know. The camel lives off of that hump during the dry season until good weather comes along again. And the same way with the fat-tail sheep. They put on an enormous amount of _____ fat of back there like that and they live off of that until good weather comes along. Well, what the Japanese wanted to do, they wanted to produce a three-type sheep, a milk goat sheep too, those fat-tail. They wanted to produce a mutton sheep, one that would produce wool, and one that would mutton _____ milk, dairy products, see. And that's what they were up to, see. But I don't know how, of course, after the war we got, _____ went back to Mongolia or China and just what happened after that, I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: That's interesting.

KLEMME: But the Japs had a lot of ideas. They was going to try to raise cotton up there in southern Manchuria and Inner Mongolia and they thought they could raise cotton. I told them that the growing season was too short, so I don't think they ever made a success of it.

INTERVIEWER: When you were touring and looking at the work camps that they had in Germany, you had quite a bit of experience in Oregon working with the CCC camps. Tell us a little bit about the type of association you had with the camps in Oregon and then maybe tell us a little bit about what you found when you looked at the work camps in Europe.

KLEMME: Well, yes, we started out, when I first came to Oregon, they had only two CCC camps that had just come in. They were building a Squaw Butte experiment station there. They were working on that mostly. They had two. And when I left, we had ten of them there. They had been setting up from time to time in different places and we'd taken over one from, a couple from the Forest Service and some of them were new camps and so forth like that. So, that, we added, on the CC camps became more numerous, we got an increase in personnel and I had the Chief of, to handle that and, of course, the foreman. And each camp had a technical assistant, and we usually had a range management specialist and we could assign him to study the property studies, one thing and another and like that. But we did all kinds of work. We built a lot of drift fences. We built roads and the Forest Service, they did a little different type of work than we did. They planted trees and things like that, but they built roads and things like that too. One thing, maybe a little different, though, for us from the six C's, we had to deal with three or four different Army outfits, the Army Corps. One of them was out of Washington, one of them was out of Sacramento, and one of them was out Lewis, Idaho, and one of them was out Vancouver barracks. And that's where I got acquainted with General Marshall. Not many people know this, but General Marshall in 1935, ’6, and ’7, he was there three years at Vancouver, I believe. Well, he left in the spring of ’8. Was only a Brigadier General, he was the only Brigadier General, Post Commander there. And I got, well three of our camps were under Vancouver barracks and I remember I attended the meetings and would be in Vancouver like that. And, we'd make a talk about whether our boys were doing and questions like that. I remember after some of them got up and said how to keep the boys occupied and to keep them from mutiny and one thing and another like that, they did this and that and the other thing. And I said well we had volunteered our camp. I'm talking about the ones under Vancouver. Were all out on the high desert. And I said there's not much social life they can do. I said the boys on when their time's up, I said they collect arrowheads, usually

arrowheads and they had a lot of black obsidian rocks and things like that. And I said they hunt rattlesnakes. I said we've given prizes for boys that get the most rattlesnakes at the end of the season and get prizes for them. I know some of them getting $25 for the boy that got the most. Well, the Major Pomeroy was Marshall's Chief of Staff in charge of the CC activities. Marshall had the charge of the military and everything, see. He wrote me a letter and it said General Marshall said your talk made the best impression on him of all the talks and he said he was going to try to do something for your camps. And I don't know just, I remember they gave me some pool tables and some baseball equipment, I think, or something like that. But I got, after General Marshall, then, he went back to Washington, back there. He's the Chief of the Planning Division and then it wasn't very long, he was Assistant Chief of Staff and then Chief of Staff. He went out just that fast. Clean up til later, he'd gone, well during the war, he was Chief of Staff, all during the war, later, of course, then he became a Secretary of National Defense and so forth. Well, I got two or three letters from General Marshall that I still have that he wrote me after he got back to Washington.

INTERVIEWER: And that's one of the ways that you got involved in going and making this tour in the other country was he helped you get your passport and?

KLEMME: No, General Marshall had nothing to do with that. That was in, Sumner Welles, Sumner Welles was Undersecretary of State at that time. He signed my credentials.

INTERVIEWER: Well, you've certainly done a lot of traveling, moving around the country here in the United States and traveling all over the world and you were telling me earlier that you're going to take another trip pretty soon to China. Sounds like that will be really exciting to go over to China again after a number of years and see that part of the country. In looking back, give me your views on how you think this portion of the government, the Bureau of Land Management, and coming out of the Grazing Service and General Land Office being joined together. What is the biggest plus that you can see in

the way that they've moved down through the years, the biggest bonus to.

KLEMME: The biggest contribution, you mean?

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

KLEMME: Well, they stabilized the livestock industry, that's one of the main purposes to, that's what the, specify the Taylor Grazing Act to stabilize the land, use of the land, and the livestock industry, and stabilized the livestock industry. I think they've done pretty good. It took them quite a long while to get going. But I believe that, traveling across the country now, I usually like to take some out-of-the way roads to just kind of see. And generally speaking, I think they've done pretty good.

INTERVIEWER: Is there any area that when you were with the Grazing Service that you were in hopes that they would move a direction in which they'd move or some improvement they'd make that we haven't made over the years?

KLEMME: No, I can't. I' can't say.

TAPE ENDED

We had talked about that, but we didn't have money at that time. And I know I may have a little, may deserve a little credit for that because I, Wayne Norris, the Senator there, I helped him during his campaign after I left the Service, after the war. And Wayne got a lot of money for the Grazing Service. To finance a lot of this range research work and seeding. Out in eastern Oregon in the Jordan Valley country, they'd done a lot of, put in crested wheat grass and like that. Well, that's, well most of the western states now have gone into that.

INTERVIEWER: There's always some controversy over how the government manages the range out there and what condition it's in in comparison to privately held lands. How do you think the range condition is today in comparison to when you came into the Grazing Service and they were first starting to set up this process?

KLEMME: Well, it's a whole lot, it's a whole lot better. Of course, one of the problems in those days was water. Usually, around where there was water, the range was badly over grazed. And where you get out away from the water some distance, the range was still good. You had a lot of good range in Oregon when the Taylor Act was passed. But nobody would go there because there was not water there, see. They all wanted to go where they could get into water. Well, since then, they've done a lot of water development, see, so they can take those cattle and sheep **TAPE WENT SILENT.**

INTERVIEWER: You were telling me a little bit about range conditions and management of it and the problems with not having water available and now there may be talks of improvements. There's some been some definite changes. Do you think that it's moving in the right direction, are we still suffering from a lot of over grazing on public lands?

KLEMME: Not very much. As I started to say, I think, probably, my first objective after we got, had reviewed the applications, was water development. So that we could utilize that land. I know, I knew from experience that there was a lot of good land, there, a lot of good grazing land, but it was not being used. So, that was one of my, as soon as we get a little money to come in, you had to have money to do that, grazing fees started coming back and we begin to use nearly all of that grazing fee money to develop water. That was probably. And my other objective was blocking lands and consolidating the lands. It was, we had to be with four or five different kinds of lands. It was unfenced. I know a little, District 7 up there on the Columbia River, I was very proud of that district. It was a small district, and it was composed that we had public domain was there almost as much tax delinquent county land that was

laying idle there and we had a little school land, State school land, there, and we had the checkerboard with railroad land, the Northern Pacific Railroad came through, and we had that checkerboard railroad land. And we had the Reclamation land right along the river. I think there's about six different types of land all there. We organized a grazing association, and we took all the land under and administered just one, one block of land. And so, I think I, if I was asked what credit I deserved, it would probably be in that field of blocking of land. And they've carried that program on from where I left off.

INTERVIEWER: Well, looking at, you know, the blocking of lands and development of waters over the years and the process of reseeding in a lot of areas, using chaining to clear out some of the trees and let the undergrowth come up and establish some good grasses, many times those are issues that are very hotly debated when we get groups of range people together because some are very much in favor of it and others sometimes are opposed to it. But it's nice to see that even at the very beginning when the Division of Grazing was established and later the Grazing Service that you were already looking at those types of problems. Up in Oregon, which has a lot of water available, at least in portions of it, did you have any problems with the riparian areas along streams and rivers and how did you deal with that?

KLEMME: That was a real problem. You see, it was a dry season. Those lakes would go down and up just lake Salt Lake in Utah. I remember Goose Lake, part of it's in California and part of it is Oregon, see. That's gone up and down over the centuries. A long time ago, they had the old wagon tracks in there where the pioneers crossed it. Then it was back up to where they was running boats on the lake, they run a boat back and forth up and down the lake. Well, it had gone down again pretty much when I was there and we got a lot, to put them under administration and they got arguing over riparian rights, who would. Some of them said it's like a piece of pie. You could go clean on in til you met people coming in from the other side and some of them said, no you could only go as far as the first legal subdivision, the first _____ 160 acres and then inside of it would all be no man's land. They hadn't decided on that. Well, I held hearings

in Lake View to see what we was going to do like that. Well, I don't know, after we discussed and one thing or other like that, we finally dropped it and we didn't put under the district. Then the Mt. Huron Bird Refuge, they continued to, the wildlife people bought that land from owners, the owners and ditching and one thing and another like that. And, the Biological Survey, it was at that time, Fish and Wildlife Service now, I guess, like that. But at some of those lakes, the water had gone away, and people were farming it. They just gone out in there and they didn't know. Raising crops and barley and raised some good crops of barley. They wanted to use that as _____ property and things like that. But it's all been sold all that country. Just last year, I flew over that. We flew over that's all funded now.

INTERVIEWER: And brought the water level back up again. The problem that we are still trying to deal with, I know, throughout the Bureau and in the west, particularly the arid.

KLEMME: I don't know why it takes so long. These riparian rights have been arguing over riparian rights along the Mississippi River since the Colonial days. Why they can't pass the law and stick to it, I can't understand it.

INTERVIEWER: Well, I think one of the problems that we see occur is that we have, particularly creeks or rivers and things like that move and that's every bit as much problem as your lake shore rising and falling and people trying to determine where their land ends and the next person's begins. Also, the thing that you find and many times in the west is a conflict between someone wanting to clear away the vegetation around a water source in order to be able to have access to it and the wildlife people wanting that vegetation and undergrowth to remain so that it supports and, you know, we're dealing with that today and I'm sure that was probably something that you had to deal with to when it came to, you know, the early days of trying to decide about water sources and how it would be handled.

KLEMME: You know we mentioned about blocking these lands like that. I know that I talked to some of these people at meetings like that and they said they'd deliberately try to keep from blocking that, they're afraid they'd lose some of their jobs. We wanted to, I said, you got a small patch of land here, trade it over for something else or get rid of it and try to get your money out of it, don't give it away. And I remember arguing with one of the fellows out at Washington Office, just last meeting. Well, he said there's some objection. Those people like to keep those little patches of land there like that.

INTERVIEWER: Well, they're difficult to manage and.

KLEMME: And it's darn expensive for the government to have to go out and see about, see if whether it had been over grazed or what even. It's, to my mind, it's just plain stupid to keep those little patches of land like that.

INTERVIEWER: I think they currently have quite a few land exchanges taking place in several of the western states and there seems to be a move towards the blocking of the lands to make them more manageable. That's one of the things, I think, is a step probably in the right direction.

KLEMME: I think Oregon's done a pretty good job.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, they seem to have been sort of on the cutting edge of leading the way and obviously you were one of the people who had a lot to do with the beginning of movement in that direction. So, we have you to thank for that. One or two other things that we wanted to discuss with you and. Seems that there was a controversy at one time with the Governor over some state lands in Bend. Was that the lands that you were referring to as far as.

KLEMME: No, that happened after I left, I guess.

INTERVIEWER: Was that after you left?

KLEMME: I don't remember that.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Let's talk about, just in general, some of the incidents that happened while you were in Oregon and then maybe talk a little bit about some of the personalities, some of the people that you were involved with.

KLEMME: Well, taking from the list of names you have here, I liked to comment on Herman Oliver. Herman Oliver was a rancher who lived in, and was also president of a small bank and then John Day. Herman was president of the Cattle and Horse Raising Association of Oregon for ten years. And he was also at one time president of the Oregon _____ Association. That was very unusual to have a man president of both the cattle association and horses at the same time. And, he never, he was not in the where the big block of public lands was. He had permits on the National Forest, but he didn't have a permit on. But he was, Herman I don't think ever went to college, but he was appointed one of the board, state land, State Education Board. He was a very prominent person and very much respected. And you have another name here. E.R. Greenslit, Tiny Greenslit, Tiny came in the Grazing Service. He was one of the original twenty men that came in when I did. He came over from the Geological Survey and he remained up until he retired and he was one of the most dependable person that ever worked for the Service. Bill Kittridge [Kittredge??], I've been with Bill Kittridge. Well, he was a large cattleman and we worked with him on some land exchanges. He had bought some land and he spent a lot of money vegging it and he was one of the largest operators in Lake County, but he was never on. He was on the State Land Board, but he was never one of the stockmen's boys. Sam Ross was sort of a controversial figure, but I got along with Sam very well, but some of the rest of them after I left had trouble with him, I guess, over the Soldier Creek deal they had down there but that happened after I left, and I don't know the details of it. But I know, I guess, it was quite an incident. Sam was, he ran, I think, about 1200 head of cattle.

He was one of the largest cattlemen over in the Jordan Valley area.

INTERVIEWER: This is a continuation of the interview with Marvin KLEMME in Bessie, Oklahoma, on March 19, 1986. See what our level is here, okay.

KLEMME: Am I all right sitting here, or do you want me to get closer to it?

INTERVIEWER: You're, no you're just fine. You're coming in real well. Tell us a little bit more about staffing when you first went up to your office in Oregon, what kind of problems did you have in getting the job done and did you find that you needed more employees than what the Grazing Service was willing to give you?

KLEMME: Well, yes, I'd like to start in at the beginning. But, I left, our headquarters at that time was in Salt Lake City, Utah. And when I went to Oregon to set up the Region, I went up in a Plymouth car that the government owned. I took two suitcases with me, took a typewriter, and a box of stationery and I was authorized when I got up there to employ secretary and one field man.

INTERVIEWER: Was that sufficient or did you find after you got started that wasn't going to be enough?

KLEMME: As time went on, it was evident that we needed a great deal more personnel. To start with, the Director of Grazing, Farrington R. Carpenter thought he could handle the organization with a system of stockmen's advisories to be elected from among the cattlemen and sheepmen themselves. To begin with, they were equal numbers. And he felt that he could handle it with 20 government men and a system of stockmen's advisories. And, I happened to be one of those twenty that was, first set up the organization. As time went on, it became evident that we'd need

more government people because there was a great demand for the stockmen to get a permit right away. And before you could give them a permanent permit, we need more information. And we needed men to check the qualifications of the stockmen to see what they were entitled to, and we needed, particularly, to find out how much grass was available. When the applications came in, there were applications for far more land than was available. And we had to have some system to see who was going to get what we had. And so that took additional personnel. We also had, at that time, no provisions for a secretary. And we finally got permission to hire a secretary. As I said, I was authorized to, upon arriving in Oregon, I was authorized to employ one secretary and one field man. I wanted a male secretary because there would be traveling, a lot of night traveling, to get from one meeting to the other and it was in the wintertime and they was snowbanks. And getting stuck in the snow, and I didn't want to get stuck out in a snowbank with a young lady. And we had trouble getting a male secretary because they sent the qualified list, the list of qualified personnel, were all women. And, when I insisted on having a male secretary, they finally sent a list of those that had taken the examination, but they didn't know whether they passed or not. And there was a young fellow in Baker, Oregon, by the name of Maury Zimmerman that had taken the examination. So, I authorized, I went up to Baker and interviewed him and he seemed to me like he'd be okay, so I told him to report to duty. It was 3 or 4 months before we finally found out that he was qualified. I don't know what would have happened if they'd have said he flunked the examination. But, anyhow, he passed it and Zimmerman remained with the organization for many years. The field man I selected was Paul Krauder [Krauter??] from Union County, and he reported for duty and that was in January of ’36. In May, the last of May, we were authorized to hire two more men. One of them would be permanent and the other one would be on a temporary basis. The one that became permanent was Martin Gault. Gault had been a rancher in Montana. At the time we interviewed him, he was working for a grain company in Portland, Oregon. And then on the first of July, Paul Krauder was turned over to me. Krauder had, Paul Stafford, I mean to say. Stafford had been with the Reindeer Service in Alaska for 6 years and when he came back, well, they had to find a place for him and so they turned him over to us. And Stafford remained long after I left the organization. And, then about that time then a little late in the ’46, the CCC Program was turned over

to us. They had, at the time I reported, they had two CC Camps operating then. One of them, an Experiment Station had been set up and the CC boys were cutting fence posts and putting up buildings for that. And later on, more CC camps were added to us until finally we had ten for the whole region. And,

INTERVIEWER: Well, it seems like it took you a little while to build up enough staff to get the job done, didn't it?

KLEMME: It's a good thing that it wasn't too fast cause we had by going slow like that, we were more sure of what we were doing. If they'd of given us a big staff to start in with, we wouldn't have known what to do.

INTERVIEWER: Let's switch subjects a little bit. When we were talking the last time I was here we talked about your period that you worked with the Grazing Division and then your traveling throughout Europe and the Middle East. You had another interesting thing happen in your life and that was when you went back to Europe after the second World War. Tell us about the work that you did with the displaced people and how you got started in that work.

KLEMME: Yes, during the war, I was in the Marine and I was one year too old to go overseas so they put me in charge of their Recruiting Office. I was in charge of the Recruiting Office in Walla Walla, Washington, for about 6 months. And then they brought me in to the induction center in Portland, where I selected the boys for the marines that came through the induction center. But, along and after VE DAY in Europe, it was evident that we won the war, they recruiters were released. And, I found out about an organization called United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, generally called UNRRA was going to handle refugees in Europe. And I was in Washington at that time. And, I contacted them and they offered me a job right away. And I went to Europe. We was right in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean on VE Day. I remember Churchill's speech. He jumped the gun by one day. I think he said, made his speech on the 7th of May and actually it ended on the 8th of May.

Anyhow, the ship that we went over on, the Airexxon [Air Exxon??], was almost empty because they were going to bring prisoners of war back home. And we landed at Lahar, France, the first non-military vessel to land there. And I remember all the sunken ships sticking up and I remember we had a number of women who were supposed to be nurses and secretaries and we got to Lahar, they found out they didn't have a place for them to stay all night on shore, so we spent the, everybody stayed on the ship that night until the next morning when they went ashore. And they started landing prisoners of war right away. And, some of those boys had just came out of the German prisoner camp and they didn't know what had been going on and some of them wanted to know if it was true that Roosevelt had died. And the Germans they thought had told them that to break their morale. And when they way, I remember one of them, when we told him yes, it's true, Roosevelt died, he took a long breath and he said well then that means that Henry Wallace is President, doesn't it? They didn't know that we had had an election in the meantime and that Harry Truman had been, had replaced Henry Wallace. And they told us about how they were treated in prison camps and what all they had to do and one thing and another like that. Well, anyhow, we landed, and they sent us to Normandy, France, and we occupied Eisenhower's old headquarters. And, then we had about 3 weeks or a month's training there at Juniville, just out of Normandy, to try to get the different nations to work together cause we had 5 or 6 nations that we all had to work with. We had the British and Canadian. We had French, Belgium, Holland and Dutch, Czechoslovaks. And then we had a lot of Polish interpreters who could speak different languages. They were officers in the Polish Army and so, then at the end of the war, there was about 10 million, what they called slave labor in Germany that had been brought in. Actually, a lot of them, some of them were slave labors but a lot of them had gone in there voluntarily to get away from the Russians. And, so we had to get them back home as soon as we could. Well, a lot of them, most of them went home voluntarily, those in France and Belgium, they didn't have very far to go to get home. But some of them had a long ways to go and some of them didn't want to go home for various reasons.

INTERVIEWER: When you got over there, did you have everything pretty well set up or did you find that you still had a lot of work to do in trying to get everything functioning?

KLEMME: There was a lot of difficulty in working with different nationalities. We had, and any problems like that. But when the teams went off, and part of Germany is divided between, we had the British zone and the American zone, and the French zone, see. And, I more or less by accident, I guess, I went to the British zone, but what I started to say after the, it was 10 million something like that, 10 million of those people to start with, the great majority went home. But there was about 2 million that was left there that we had to, they didn't want to go home, most of those, or couldn't go home. And those are the ones that we had the problem. Well, they sent the groups out in teams, the Team Director and the Deputy Director and the Welfare Officer. And I think the team usually went from five to nine, made up a team. And they be made up of different nationals. Well, they tried to fix them so there'd be somebody that could speak, get by with the different languages like that. Well, I got a very interesting assignment. They was 10 million or 10 thousand Jews left in the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp there that had to be looked at. Well, Sweden had never taken any part in the war, but they wanted to do something for humanity, so they take 10 thousand Jews and bring them over to Sweden and rehabilitate them, stay there six months and then they could go wherever they wanted to go. Well, there was four organizations that was to handle it. The Swedish Red Cross would handle one part of it, the German Red Cross would handle part of it, and the British Military, and Medical Corps in UNRRA. UNRRA's job was to make a record of every one of those people, find out, so they could help them unite the families, get the families together. They would be broadcasts all over the radio and ever like that and they'd say well, cousin so and so is over there and so they could get together like that. They had to make a record of each one of those, where they came from and their age and general information, and the nationality and all like that. Well, I took a convey up. I left Normandy in June and I was supposed to get up to {**Granvell Lubank**} on the Baltic to meet the Swedes. I had a convey of 20 women that was supposed to be, they were Secretaries and the Welfare Officers and I had one man, only one man, a Dutchman who was my supply officer, and three drivers. And we picked up another lorrie in Belgium. And, it took us, we had trouble finding a place for the girls to stay when we left there. We finally found out we could always go to a hospital. And we'd leave the women at the hospital and then we'd stay at a military camp or something like. And it took us, we stopped the first night, we stopped at Luran

[Lorraine??], France, that's northern France. Those places were all bombed to smithereens at that time and all. The next night in Brussels, we stayed just out of Brussels, Belgium, the next night we stayed in Holland, Inovan [Eindhoven??], Holland. And the final night or next to the final night, we was Ausenbrook [Osnabruck??], Germany, across over in Germany. I remember they had a big sign across, when we crossed from Germany into, from Holland into Germany, the sign said, "here ends the civilized world." I don't know whether the Canadian army put that up or whether the Hollanders put it up like that. Well, anyhow, we got there, we was supposed to get there on the 22nd and we got twenty minutes til midnight on the 22nd.

INTERVIEWER: That was pretty amazing after a long trip and all the problems you had finding places to stay.

KLEMME: We had some interesting people there. I met the Count Bernidock [Count Bernadotte??] is a cousin of the King of Sweden. He was the chief of the Swedish Red Cross. And the Swedish Embassy was in Lubeck. They had to move it. I don't know if they moved it from Berlin or from keeping from being bombed or what but anyhow, I was there and we ate with the Swedes. At first, that was a complicated mess too. They didn't know they were supposed to take care of us and a couple of days there, we almost starved. But they finally got organized. Well, then they started bringing the. The British was to bring the people from the _____ concentration camp, the Jews, they'd bring them up on the train up there and a lot of them or the first ones were on stretchers. It was just skeleton cases almost like that. Later on, of course, some of the better physically fit began to come up. And the Swedes would stretch big tents there and they made those people get rid of their old clothing, ragged clothing, and they gave them pajamas to wear and said you'll get suits when you get close over to Stockholm, on the Swedish side over there. They had to cross on a ferry, you know, to Lubeck, Germany over there to Sweden. And the Swedes made them take a sauna bath, you know what a sauna bath is, you know, a steam bath like that. You know take all their clothes and take a sauna bath and then they gave them. And a lot of them thought they was going into a gas chamber. They'd squeal, scream like that, you know? They were a little bit demented. Also, a lot of those people had valuables sewed up in

their rags. They'd have jewelry and one thing and another like that and a lot of American $20 gold certificates that had been outlawed back home, you know. We had to turn them in like that, you know. And they said that's so long or you lose it. But I think they audited them lately like that. Anyhow, when they finally, the Swedes told them they had an incinerator back there where they took all that clothing and dumped in and burned it, see like that. Then they begin to get a knife and began to cut those old clothing out to get the, it surprised them all the valuables they had sewed up.

INTERVIEWER: That must have been amazing. Did the Swedish government have large facilities for these people to stay in? How were they going to take care of that many people at one time? Were they going to put them hospitals?

KLEMME: Yeah, and over in Sweden. Part of them went to Stockholm and part of them to _____. And they tried to keep families together. That was a problem we had, too, you know, sometimes they wanted to put a mother on the. The ships went back and forth, back and forth. Put one on the boat and the daughter on another one and they'd figure they'd never get together again, you know. But, it was finally worked out all right.

INTERVIEWER: It must have taken a lot of patience on the people working for your group to deal with that.

KLEMME: Yeah, there was some of those, some of those Jews was mentally off, demented. They was a fella came to me and he said there was one fella there, he pointed out to me, he's going to kill you and the Swedish doctor. The Swedes wouldn't. They were responsible for feeding them and they said you don't give a starved man too much to eat with, to start with like that, you know. It's unhealthy. So, they started them out with just a little bit like that and that made them mad. They thought they was going to get food and they'd say, well, we had better than that back at _____. And they had, this fellow had an iron pipe that he was going to hit me with, I guess. And we

stopped him anyhow and he didn't far. But they was a number of cases like that. We had, among the DPs, or the, or among the Jewish refugees. We took food, we had. I guess, the majority of them were from Poland and we had Czechoslav [Czechoslovakian??] and Hungary Jews, well almost all over Europe. Even we had three or four American Jews that had gotten over there and during the war like that they couldn't get away. I remember one boy very well. I got acquainted with him. He was about 12 years old. One of the questions we asked them, where do you want to go after the Swedes, after 6 months, where do you want to go? I thought they was all going to want to come to the United States and I was way wrong. Nearly all of them said Palestine. At that time, they, through the grapevine someway they got the idea that they was going to set up a homeland of their own in Palestine. And, I think, let's see, about 85 percent of them wanted to go to Palestine. And then the United States was next. And, I believe, South Africa and Australia came in there and Canada. Not many to Canada, I was surprised. Quite a lot of them, South Africa, now, quite a Jewish colony down there.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, there are in several countries.

KLEMME: Oppenheimer Gold Diamond Mining there.

INTERVIEWER: Not very many of them wanted to go back to their homelands or what had been their homelands. They realized probably what bad condition everything was in. They wanted to go somewhere else and start over. That must have been very interesting work for you, though. How long did you stay with that group of people?

KLEMME: Well, we finished our work. I was supposed to, as soon as that work finished which would be about 6 weeks or 2 months or not more than 2 months, after it was finished, I was supposed to bring the vehicles back and most of the personnel back to the headquarters. In the meantime, the headquarters had left _____. They had set headquarters over land in the middle of Germany and right on the American/British line. Well, they

found out that I was a Forester and they needed to get somebody to get out fuel wood for all the DP camps cause you still had to start in with close to 2 million to start with. And so I wouldn't have had to stay but anyhow it kind of fascinated me and I stayed and I organized woodcutting crews all over north Germany. First we started in at Lubeck there and the Lieutenant General in the British Army saw these piles of wood over there and he wanted me to cover the whole area. So, that's what I did. I'd stay. I stayed with the Army, the British Army most of my meal. We had a UNRRA Team, sometimes I'd stay with the UNRRA Team but I stayed more with the Army than I did with the Team. And, so, I worked til, I was there about 2 years and some months, 2 years and about 3 months, I believe it was all together. Towards the last, why they made me a title called Zone Employment Officer to find work for those people to do. And we organized, we took over some of the airports and ripped them up and put in gardens and potatoes. I know I went to Czechoslovakia to get potato seed for planting, went over there and got several bushel of potatoes and put in gardens and we set up training schools, and, of course, I'd have to take somebody else that had the language cause I could speak enough German to get by with my woodcutters but I couldn't hold a conversation and so forth.

INTERVIEWER: Not to give all the instructions that you need for that type of work. What year did you leave your work with UNRRA there?

KLEMME: Well, that would be in ’47.

INTERVIEWER: In ’47?

KLEMME: I came home in July, yeah I was the mob as they call it in Wash on the 6th of July.

INTERVIEWER: What did you do after you finished working there? What was your last exciting adventure?

KLEMME: I spent 3 or 4 months writing this book and rewriting on United States UNRRA. And then I worked in Congress. I worked in the Senate there with Senator Kordner [Cordner??], the Research Secretary there. I was working there when the Marshall Plan started, and I can remember yet that this is something that interests the people in Oregon too because while I was working with Kordner we got a letter from people out in Oregon rounding up these wild horses. And they understood that Poland and Czechoslovakia and Central Europe wanted horse meat. You know, they do all through that area. Even France, they eat horsemeat like that, see. So, they wrote Senator Lennon and see if he could contact the Marshall Plan people and they could some orders for some horsemeat. So, Kordner told me to go down there and contact those people. And I did. Well, we didn't have any luck about, almost about that same time, Poland and Czechoslovakia came under the common Soviet influence and they told them keep away from that. So, they wasn't in demand for horsemeat. And the other one was, the Marshall Plan people told me, they said, well many of those people up in Minnesota and Wisconsin got these draft horses and their meat's better than these broom tails that you've got out west, out there. And so nothing happened to it. But while I was talking to the Marshall Plan people, they asked me if I wanted a job overseas. And that's where I first started with the overseas. I worked overseas about 18 years, you see. I said that I first went to Greece and Turkey and Kordner, the Senator didn't want me to go. He said you stick around here and we'll. Wages weren't too good in those assignments anyhow like that, you know. I got a lot more money by going overseas. And I said I'll go over for 2 years and then I'll come back. And I went for 2 years and stayed there 18. I stayed til I retired.

INTERVIEWER: You must have seen a lot of the world in all those trips then.

KLEMME: Well, I worked in many different places, all over Africa, several countries, a half a dozen countries in Africa, and three or four in Asia, and a couple of them in South America.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of work did you do with the Marshall Plan?

KLEMME: Well, most of it on forestry and range management and erosion control work. I did a lot of erosion control work. It depended on the country you was in. Like in Liberia, for instance, there was a rubber plantation helping the people get closer, putting in small rubber farms and things like that. And other places was bush control and other places water development and it varied from country to country.

INTERVIEWER: Some of the countries still have some really serious problems with erosion control.

KLEMME: And they will in a long time.

INTERVIEWER: It hasn't changed too much then over the years, has it?

KLEMME: Well, in Africa, it's been a problem since the days of Julius Caesar, I guess. That was one of. I remember when I first went to Africa, they wanted me to stop over in Tunisia and Libya and they were at that time. We had a team over there digging out those old Roman cisterns used during the time of Carthage. They'd put cisterns down there. It's very level country and they put canals out in all directions and water would drain into those cisterns. Well, over a period of 400 or 500 years back, 300 or 400 years anyway, meantime the dust had blown in there and filled up those canals, but they got some old maps of the area and by following those old maps they dug out a lot of those old cisterns. I don't know what. Khadafi's got that now. I don't know what he's doing with it.

INTERVIEWER: It's hard to tell. Well, I think that the people who are going to listen to these tapes in the future are going to really appreciate the time that you've given us to talk about your experience in working with the Division of Grazing, later

the Grazing Service which was the forerunner to the Bureau of Land Management but also sharing with us some of your personal insights into the different work that you've done around the world. And I want the people to know that you're now preparing for another trip to China within the next few weeks and we'll be expecting more exciting reports from you when you come back. I certainly hope that you are presently the author of three books and with the diaries you kept, perhaps you'll write another book about some of your other travels and experiences. On behalf of the Bureau, I'd like to thank you Mr. Klemme for allowing me to interview you.

KLEMME: You're welcome.